

The yellowjacket, *V. vulgaris*, is a common coastal species that is considered to be a general predator and/or scavenger (Akre, R. D., A. Greene, J. F. MacDonald, P. J. Landolt & H. G. Davis. 1980. U.S. Dept. Agric., Agric. Handbook, 552.). Like most species of yellowjackets, the newly mated females overwinter in logs or sheltered areas and will be the nuclei of new colonies in the spring. Individuals from the previous season, including the old queen, will not survive the winter. The seasonal history of a colony normally ranges from May to early November. The colony life of a coastal vespid, therefore, generally ends about the time that the monarch butterflies arrive in the fall. Because the late fall and early winter of 1989–90 were mild, with no major winter storms or cold temperatures from October to December, these mild fall-winter months most likely extended the vespid colony life to January. Monarch butterflies on the ground at their winter grove then provided easy prey and a food source for this opportunistic predator.

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